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KEMPSTON
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
AND OF THE
SANITARY INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR

1951

M. J. PLEYDELL, M.C., M.D., D.P.H.,
Medical Officer of Health.

C. A. L. SETCHELL, A.M.I.S.E., M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.,
Chief Sanitary Inspector.

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To the Chairman and Members of the Kempston Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The estimated mid-year population is slightly less than that reported last year. This may be accounted for by the fact that the recent census figures have been used for 1951, whereas in previous years the figures have been obtained from estimations based on other data. The birth rate is rather lower than the comparable figure for England and Wales, but the death rate compares favourably with that for the nation, and it is again satisfactory to note that no maternal deaths occurred. Considerable fluctuations of these rates are liable to occur when they are calculated in individual districts, and this is exemplified in the infant mortality rate for the year under review.

With regard to infectious disease: the epidemic of measles which occurred in 1950 died away during 1951, but whooping cough was more prevalent. Only a few cases of scarlet fever were notified, and no cases of poliomyelitis occurred. The isolation of paratyphoid B organisms from a patient was followed by full scale investigations which resulted in the ascertainment of a carrier. This is reported in the section dealing with infectious disease.

As in previous years, housing remains the chief problem in Public Health, but at the end of the year twenty-two dwellings were under construction and a further eight bungalows for elderly people were nearing completion. With the average age of the population steadily rising, the latter housing project should be of considerable assistance in providing for the needs of the community.

In conclusion, I would like to thank the officials of the District Council and the staff for their help and co-operation.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

M. J. PLEYDELL,

Medical Officer of Health.

25th June, 1952.

KEMPSTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR 1951

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY.

<i>Medical Officer of Health</i>	M. J. PLEYDELL, M.C., M.D., D.P.H.
<i>Surveyor, Chief Sanitary Inspector and Water Engineer</i>	C. A. L. SETCHELL, A.M.I.S.E., M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A., Cert.S.I.B., Cert. Meat Inspection.
<i>Additional Sanitary Inspector and Assistant Building Surveyor</i>	F. E. CASEMORE, A.R.San.I., M.S.I.A., Cert.S.I.B., Cert. Meat Inspection

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area in Acres	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,302
Population (Civil), Census for 1951	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8,641
Registrar General's estimate of mid-year population, 1951 (including Service Personnel)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9,136
Number of Inhabited Houses (at end of 1951) according to the Rate Book	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,485
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£36,995
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£146

SOCIAL CONDITIONS

The majority of employed people work in Bedford, or at Brick Works south of Kempston. A considerable number of men and girls are employed at Engineering Works in Bedford.

Apart from the Electric Lamp Works, the remainder in Kempston are small concerns comprising a Shoe Factory, Leather Works, Iron Foundry Works, Pattern Makers, Engineering Works, Crayon Works, Cardboard Box Factory, Tin works and Metal Hose Works.

Social conditions are dominated by the housing shortage, with the consequence that many families are sharing houses and living in rooms often quite unsuitable. Although the Council are erecting houses as quickly as present restrictions and labour shortages will allow, no end at present can be seen to this problem.

STATISTICS

				<i>Total</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	
Live Births	{	Legitimate	... ..	118	61	57	} Birth Rate 13.5 per 1,000 of the estimated population
		Illegitimate	... ..	5	4	1	
			Total	<u>123</u>	<u>65</u>	<u>58</u>

The corresponding figure for England and Wales is 15.5 per total population.

				<i>Total</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	
Still Births	{	Legitimate	... ..	3	2	1	} Still Birth Rate 0.48 per 1,000 home population which compares with a still-birth rate of 0.36 for England and Wales
		Illegitimate	... ..	1	—	1	
			—	—	—		
	Total	... ..	4	2	2		
				=	=	=	

							<i>Total</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>
Deaths	...	...	...	...	...	...	93	47	46

giving a crude death rate of 10.2 per 1,000 of the resident population. The corresponding figure for England and Wales is 12.5 per 1,000 total population.

MATERNAL MORTALITY

There were no maternal deaths during the year. The maternal mortality rate for England and Wales is 0.79 per 1,000 live and still births.

INFANTILE MORTALITY

				<i>Total</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>
Deaths of Infants under one year—legitimate	...	...	...	5	2	3
illegitimate	...	...	...	-	-	-

Infant mortality rate:—40.6 per 1,000 live births.

Infant mortality rate for England and Wales is 29.6 per 1,000 live births.

CAUSES OF DEATH

	M.	F.
Tuberculosis, respiratory	1	—
Tuberculosis, other	—	—
Syphilitic disease	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—
Meningococcal infections	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—
Measles	—	—
Other infective and parasitic diseases	1	—
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	3	1
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	1	1
Malignant neoplasm, breast	—	1
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	—	2
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	3	5
Leukaemia, aleukemia	—	—
Diabetes	—	—
Vascular lesions of nervous system	5	7
Coronary disease, angina	11	6
Hypertension with heart disease	1	1
Other heart disease	9	7
Other circulatory disease	1	2
Influenza	1	—
Pneumonia	1	2
Bronchitis	—	—
Other diseases of respiratory system	—	1
Ulcer stomach and duodenum	—	1
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	—	1
Nephritis and nephrosis	—	1
Hyperplasia of prostate	—	—
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	—
Congenital malformations	—	—
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	6	5
Motor vehicle accidents	1	—
All other accidents	—	2
Suicide	2	—
Homicide and operations of war	—	—
All causes	47	46

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

1. LABORATORY FACILITIES

A new Public Health Laboratory has been set up in the grounds of the Bedford General Hospital, North Wing. The service provided is under the direction of the Medical Research Council acting for the Ministry of Health and is free of charge to the Local Authority.

One of the main functions of this Service is to co-operate with General Practitioners and Medical Officers of Health in the diagnosis, prevention, and control of infectious diseases. For these purposes the laboratory will undertake the examination of material, e.g., throat swabs, sputa, faeces, urine and blood from any patient suspected to be suffering from a communicable infection, or of being a carrier. All General Practitioners in the district have been acquainted of these facilities.

2. AMBULANCE FACILITIES

The Service provided by the Bedfordshire County Council has satisfactorily met the needs of the area. It covers the full twenty-four hours, and is free of charge.

In addition to moving emergency cases, ambulance or sitting case car transport is available for carrying patients unable to travel by other means to and from Hospitals and Clinics, when attendance is necessary for the purpose of receiving medical treatment.

Except in the case of an emergency, the request for an ambulance must be made by a Medical Practitioner or other authorised person. This should be to the nearest depot.

Out-patients of Hospitals using public transport are reimbursed their travelling expenses by the Hospital Authorities.

The service now also covers the removal to isolation hospitals of patients suffering from infectious disease.

Depots are situated as follows:—

	<i>Telephone</i>
BEDFORD Newnham Avenue	Bedford 4875
AMPTHILL Claridges Lane	Amphthill 2187
BIGGLESWADE Crab Lane	Biggleswade 2295
DUNSTABLE High Street North	Dunstable 761
LUTON 42 Church Street	Luton 4600
LINSLADE Linslade, Leighton Buzzard and Wing Division of the St. John Ambulance Brigade Headquarters, 10 New Road, Linslade.	Leighton Buzzard 3332

RUSHDEN

Rushden and District Motor Ambulance
Association,
Mr. C. C. Woods,
3 Purvis Road.

Telephone
Rushden 403

3. DOMICILIARY NURSING AND MIDWIFERY SERVICE

The County Council is responsible under the National Health Service Act, 1946, for the provision of these Services and employs the nurses and midwives in the district. Direct administration is by the Northern Divisional Health Committee.

The nurses employed are:—

Nurse M. Clark*† Nurse M. Minards*†
† S.C.M. (State Certified Midwife)
* S.E.A.N. (State Enrolled Assistant Nurse)

4. CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES

These are undertaken by the County Council.

Infant Welfare Clinic:—Is held at the Kempston Methodist Schoolroom (Foster Road), on every Friday, at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.

<i>Venereal Disease Clinic:</i>	<i>Men</i>	<i>Women</i>
Bedford County Hospital (Amphill Road Entrance)	... Monday to Friday (inclusive) 4–8 p.m.	Monday, Tuesday, 6 p.m. Wednesday, 5–7 p.m. Thursday, 6 p.m. Friday, 3–5 p.m.

Medical Officer in attendance: Mondays, 5–6.30 p.m.; Wednesdays, 5–7.30 p.m.;
Fridays, 2.30–5.30 p.m.

Chest Clinic:—

The Chest Clinic is situated in Bedford General Hospital, North Wing, Kimbolton Road, Bedford. The Physician in Charge is of consultant status and is in daily attendance. Patients are seen by appointment only, except in the case of emergency.

For consultation in special cases, at the discretion of the Physician in Charge, Dr. Lee Lander, Consultant Physician, Brompton Hospital, visits the area for one session each fortnight.

The hours of the Clinic are as follows:—

Monday, 2 p.m.–3.30 p.m.	...	...	...	Pneumothorax refills
Monday, 6 p.m.–7 p.m.	...	...	...	Pneumothorax refills (workers)
Tuesday morning and afternoon	...	...	...	Women and Children
Wednesday morning and afternoon	...	...	...	Contacts (both sexes)
Thursday morning and afternoon	...	...	...	Men
Friday, 9 a.m.–11 a.m.	...	...	...	Pneumothorax refills

5. HOSPITALS

The district is served by the Bedford General Hospital (North and South Wings). These hospitals are controlled by the Bedford Group Hospital Management Committee.

SCHOOLS

There are three schools in the district:—

1. KEMPSTON SECONDARY MODERN SCHOOL

The average number of pupils on the roll is 318 and the average attendance 290.

The sanitary accommodation is as follows:—

Girls	...	...	...	...	7 W.Cs. and 9 washbasins.
Boys	...	...	...	...	8 W.Cs. (of which 6 W.Cs. shared with Juniors from Primary School); 2 urinals and 11 washbasins.

2. BEDFORD ROAD PRIMARY SCHOOL

The average number of pupils on the roll is 291 and the average attendance 260. Temporary accommodation for 75 children is provided at the East Methodist Church Hall.

The sanitary accommodation is as follows:—

Girls: infants and juniors	...	...	...	7 W.Cs.
Boys: infants	...	...	...	2 W.Cs. and 1 urinal
juniors	...	...	...	6 W.Cs. (shared with Secondary Modern School) and 1 urinal.

There are 9 washbasins.

In addition the following sanitary accommodation is provided at the East Methodist Church Hall.

Girls	...	...	...	2 W.Cs.
Boys	...	...	...	1 W.C. and urinal.

There are 2 sinks for washing purposes.

3. THE UP END PRIMARY SCHOOL

The average number of pupils on the roll is 406 and the average attendance is 360.

The sanitary accommodation is as follows:—

Girls: infants	...	...	...	5 W.Cs.
juniors	...	...	...	3 W.C.s
Boys: infants	...	...	...	2 W.Cs. and 1 urinal.
juniors	...	...	...	2 W.Cs. and 1 urinal.

There are 5 washbasins.

Only 1 W.C. is provided at this school for the use of 4 male and 9 female teachers.

Each of the schools has a main water supply. School dinners are provided in canteens situated at the Kempston Secondary Modern School and in the Parochial Hall.

An increase in sanitary accommodation is required to achieve the prescribed standards.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

1. WATER SUPPLY

The District's water comes mainly from a greensand source and is purchased in bulk from the Biggleswade Water Board who pump the supply into a service reservoir, with a capacity of $1\frac{1}{2}$ million gallons, situated at Moxhill in the parish of Northill. The top water level of the reservoir is 223.0 O.D. The Ampthill Road area is supplied with water obtained in bulk from the Bedford Corporation with whose mains an interconnection was made in July 1944. Over 12 miles of 7 and 8 inch diameter trunk mains, with a flow capacity of 525,000 gallons per day, leave Moxhill and pass through the parishes of Willington, Cople, Cardington, Eastcotts and Elstow to the Urban District, where the flow diminishes to 450,000 gallons per day. On route supplies are given to the Royal Air Works at Cardington and to the Bedford Rural District Council for the villages of Elstow and Cardington. A booster station is situated near the Cross Roads at Cardington, having duplicate electrically operated automatic pumps with a capacity of 25,000 gallons each per hour, a lift of 35 feet and a delivery pressure of 115 feet. No treatment plant is operated by this Authority. The distribution system covers the whole of the Urban District and, with the exception of four cottages situated on the extreme outskirts, water is supplied by the Council's main directly to every dwelling house in the area. At the highest point in the District the pressure is low, being only 15 lbs per square inch with an average pressure for the District of 25 lbs. and a maximum of 30 lbs. per square inch. Sluice valves provide adequate control throughout the system, and fire hydrants are provided in sufficient numbers to cover all buildings. Flow recording meters are installed on the two trunk mains leading from the service reservoir. Two covered pressure balancing tanks with a capacity of 65,480 gallons are situated at Farrer Street, having a top water level of 180 O.D. in order to improve pressures.

All water mains are of cast iron and are in first class condition, as are the reservoir and water towers. During the week before Easter the Moxhill service reservoir was drained out and cleansed under the direction of the Engineer to the Biggleswade Water Board, from whom it is learnt that a scheme for covering it over is awaiting the Ministry's sanction.

The following table gives the sizes and lengths of the distribution mains in the Council's area:—

<i>Size</i>					<i>Length in Yards</i>
7"	...	...	...	...	1,168
6"	...	...	...	...	2,930
5"	...	...	...	...	347
4"	...	...	...	...	5,925
3"	...	...	...	...	14,434
2"	...	...	...	...	742

An extension of 120 yards of 3" cast iron main was laid during the year, and services to 19 houses renewed.

The water supply has been satisfactory in quantity and quality, the 46 samples for Bacteriological examination taken from various points on the supply during the year being of a high standard.

Consumption figures for the year are given in the following table:—

							<i>Gallons</i>
Kempston Urban District	...	...	...	...	...	...	99,285,000
Elstow	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,555,000
Cardington	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,549,000
R.A.W.	...	...	...	...	...	...	60,581,000
							<hr/> 164,970,000 <hr/>

2. DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

Apart from the following premises which are situated in the out-parts of the District, all dwelling houses are connected to the sewers:—

<i>Situation</i>						<i>No. of Premises</i>	<i>Sanitary Arrangements</i>
Sailor's Bridge	...	...	...	...	...	2	Pail Closets
Mill Cottage	...	...	...	...	...	1	"
Kempston Mill	...	...	...	...	...	1	Chemical Closet
Bury Cottages	...	...	...	...	...	4	Pail Closets
Hoo Lodge	...	...	...	...	...	1	Cesspool
The Mill House	...	...	...	...	...	1	"
The Manor	...	...	...	...	...	1	"
Manor Cottage	...	...	...	...	...	1	"
The Manor Cottages	...	...	...	...	...	2	"
Kempston Grange	...	...	...	...	...	1	"
Grange Cottages	...	...	...	...	...	2	"
The Bury	...	...	...	...	...	1	"
32, Elstow Road	...	...	...	...	...	1	"

SEWAGE DISPOSAL WORKS

The original disposal works, which were put down in 1911, were altered and enlarged in 1938 when provision was made to deal with a Dry Weather Flow of 260,000 gallons per day. The actual discharge of sewage is not measured at the works, but tests indicate that the present rate of flow averages 430,000 gallons per day and is increased during and after rainfall to 691,200 gallons. It is therefore obvious that the present Works are overloaded and that it has been impossible for some time to produce an effluent which complies with the General Standard recommended by the Royal Commission on Sewage Disposal, the suspended matter particularly being considerably in excess of three parts per 100,000. No complaints have however been received with regard to the condition of the stream into which the outfall discharges, and extreme care is taken to ensure the production of as satisfactory an effluent as is possible under the circumstances. Although

fortunately no difficulty is experienced in disposing of dry sludge to local farmers and smallholders it will be appreciated that, as no proper sludge drying beds are available (shallow lagoons for this purpose being dug in the ground), the complete drying out of the sewage sludge does present a problem. In an effort to improve matters, experiments have been carried out using layers of baled straw on to which the sludge is pumped to dry, and this method has many advantages.

The presence of very considerable quantities of froth on the settling tanks, detritus chamber and humus tanks during the early part of November caused some alarm, but investigations showed that this was caused by abnormal quantities of synthetic soaps and washing powders being discharged into the sewers, due, it was thought, to a publicity campaign being carried out by a large commercial undertaking which was distributing free samples to householders. The froth gradually disappeared.

The scheme prepared by the Council's Consulting Engineers for the remodelling and enlargement of the Works, which was the subject of Ministerial Enquiry in 1946 unfortunately still remains in abeyance.

An extension of 120 yards of 9" sewer on the Council's housing estate was carried out during the year.

3. RIVERS AND STREAMS

No complaints have been received of river or stream pollution during the year, and no action has been necessary.

4. CLOSET ACCOMMODATION

With the exception of seven houses in the outlying parts of the district, which have pail or chemical closets, all houses have water closets.

5. PUBLIC CLEANSING

There are no ash-pits or privies in the area. Pail closets are emptied weekly by the Council's men with tank carts, and contents discharged at the sewerage outfall.

In March, following a report that the available tipping space at the Sewage Disposal Works in Woburn Road was almost gone, that it had not been possible to find alternative tipping sites within the Urban District, and that with the considerable developments that had taken place in the area since 1945 it was becoming almost impossible to maintain a weekly collection from all premises with a battery driven Refuse Collection Vehicle whose capacity was only 7 cubic yards, the Council decided to purchase a petrol driven rear loading Fore and Aft Tipping Vehicle of the very latest modern design with a capacity of 16 to 18 cubic yards. The vehicle was received and commenced working in May, and enabled the Council's tip to be closed after arrangements had been made for all refuse collected in the area to be deposited at a controlled tip outside the District at Willington.

The weekly collection of refuse and salvage in one operation from all premises within the Urban District has thus been maintained throughout the year. Approximately 1,816 tons of house refuse being disposed of.

The following table shows the quantities of salvage sold during the year:—

							<i>Tons</i>	<i>Cwts.</i>
Waste Paper, Books, Cardboard	...	...	...	...	...	...	66	16 $\frac{1}{4}$
Scrap Iron and Tins	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	13 $\frac{1}{4}$
Non-ferrous Metals	...	...	...	...	...	...		4 $\frac{1}{4}$
Textiles	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	7 $\frac{3}{4}$
Bones	...	...	...	...	...	...		1 $\frac{1}{2}$
Bottles and Jars	...	...	...	...	...	...		18
							75	1

Revenue from sale of Salvage during the year amounted to £773 2s. 5d.

The Council decided to enter the £20,000 National Waste Paper Contest organised by the Waste Paper Recovery Association Limited, the basis of the competition for which cash prizes were awarded being the average tonnage collected per 1,000 population per month throughout the year. The total amount collected was 84 tons 5 cwts. 1 qr. of waste paper, an average of approximately 16 cwts. of paper per 1,000 of the population per month.

The emptying of street gullies in District Highways has been carried out at regular intervals, and the engagement of additional labour towards the end of the year enabled street sweeping and scavenging to be systematically undertaken.

6. SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

The following table shows the number of inspections made during the year, for all purposes:—

Dwelling-houses inspected and Recorded under the Housing Acts Regulations	1
Ordinary Inspections for housing defects	68
Sanitary routine inspections	168
Inspection of Slaughterhouses and Foodstuffs	76
Visits and revisits to Council Property relating to reported defects and repairs of same	312
Inspection of Factories and Workshops, including Bakehouses	42
Inspection of Cow-sheds and Dairies	8
Inspection of Petroleum Stores	8
Visits re Infectious Disease	7
Rooms disinfected	8
Inspections under Shops Act	10
Drainage Inspections	140
Drain Tests	72
Caravans	32
Other Miscellaneous visits	168
Water Services	65
Building Bye-laws	570

7. SHOPS AND OFFICES

No action with regard to shops and offices was found necessary, except in the case of food shops which are reported separately.

8. SMOKE ABATEMENT

There were no factory chimneys in the district which required attention during the year.

9. SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS

There are no privately owned or other swimming baths open to the public in the District.

During the summer period considerable use is made of a natural bathing pool and sandpit situated on the northern boundary of the district, by persons patronising the Honey Hill Lido. As the greater part of the premises come within the Borough of Bedford, supervision is carried out by officials of the Bedford Corporation Public Health Department.

10. PUBLIC MORTUARY

During the year 23 bodies were received into the mortuary which, by arrangement, is available for use by the neighbouring Authorities of Bedford and Ampthill Rural District Councils.

11. DISINFECTIONS

Fumigation of rooms has been carried out as follows, by a dilute spray of Formalin and by Formaldehyde Gas.

After Infectious Diseases	...	...	...	...	5
After Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	1
Other causes	...	...	...	...	3

An inspection of the house and sanitary arrangements is also made in each case, and notice served to make good any defect that may be found.

Since the de-rationing of soap, the Council has resumed the free issue of carbolic soap to occupiers of premises where cases of infectious diseases occur.

12. DISINFESTATIONS

During the year under review one house was found to be infested with bugs and the necessary treatment carried out.

Seven dwelling houses were treated for the eradication of wasps or flies.

HOUSING

The following table shows the number of houses completed for occupation since the end of the second world war:—

<i>Year</i>			<i>By Kempston U.D.C.</i>	<i>By Other Authorities</i>	<i>By Private Enterprise</i>	<i>Total</i>
1946	...	...	20	—	24	44
1947	...	...	28	—	6	34
1948	...	...	64	—	1	65
1949	...	...	28	—	8	36
1950	...	...	30	18	2	50
1951	...	...	14	6	5	25
TOTALS	...	...	184	24	46	254

At the end of the year 3 Private Enterprise houses and 30 dwellings (including 8 Old Peoples Bungalows) were under construction for the Urban District Council. Tenders for a further 16 houses for the Authority were under consideration and plans for the acquisition of a further 8.088 acres of land adjoining the Woburn Road housing estate in hand.

1. APPLICATIONS FOR COUNCIL HOUSES

The total number of applications for houses on the books of the Council at the end of the year under review was as follows:—

1. Applicants with families in rooms:						
(a) Residing and Working in Kempston	...	...	...	...	21	
(b) Residing but not working in Kempston	...	...	...	...	73	
(c) Working but not residing in Kempston	...	...	...	...	12	
(d) Not working or residing in Kempston	...	...	...	...	51	
2. Householders with families:						
(a) Residing and Working in Kempston	...	...	...	...	18	
(b) Residing but not working in Kempston	...	...	...	...	38	
(c) Working but not residing in Kempston	...	...	...	...	22	
(d) Not working or residing in Kempston	...	...	...	...	28	
3. Applicants without children:						
(a) Residing and working in Kempston	...	...	...	...	19	
(b) Residing but not working in Kempston	...	...	...	...	48	
(c) Working but not residing in Kempston	...	...	...	...	5	
(d) Not working or residing in Kempston	...	...	...	...	35	
4. Single Persons	...	...	...	...	7	
				TOTAL	...	377

2. INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	30
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	34
(2) (a) Number of dwelling houses (included under the sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925	1
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	1
(3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	2
(4) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	30

3. REMEDY OF DEFECTS WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES

Number of defective houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	37
---	----

4. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS

A. Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:—

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	Nil
(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:—	
(a) By owners	Nil
(b) By local authority in default of owners	Nil

B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts:—

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	3
(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:—	
(a) By owners	3
(b) By local authority in default of owners	Nil

C. Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:—

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	Nil
(2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	Nil

D. Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:—

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	Nil
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which closing orders were determined the tenement or room having been rendered fit	Nil

5. HOUSING ACT, 1936—PART IV—OVERCROWDING

No action has been taken under this part of the Act although records of known cases of overcrowding are maintained which are brought to the notice of the department mainly because the persons concerned wish to strengthen their application for a Council House on these grounds. The standard of overcrowding is based on the number of occupants of a dwelling and the floor space of the rooms, and much distress can be caused when two or more families have to share a dwelling and its conveniences which may be designed only for a single family, though these cases do not come within the legal definition of overcrowding.

Considerable difficulty is still being experienced in getting house repairs carried out, particularly with the older types of small dwellings where the controlled rents are so low that the carrying out of extensive repairs by the owners creates definite hardship. A revision in legislation controlling rents appears to be long overdue.

NEW BUILDINGS

1. PLANS SUBMITTED AND DEALT WITH DURING YEAR

Dwelling houses:—

(a) Local Authority	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	30
(b) Police	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
(c) Private Enterprise	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Private Garages	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	31
Outbuildings	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Extensions or alterations to existing buildings	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	20
Industrial and Business Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	24
Building Sites	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4

2. CIVIL BUILDING CONTROL

In August, 1945, local authorities were requested to undertake the licensing of building work, within certain limits, under Defence Regulation 56A, also the granting of licences for private builders to erect small houses. The following table shows the Building Licences issued during the year under review:—

Number of Licences granted for the repair, etc., of—

Dwelling houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Value	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£2,200

Number of Licences granted for repair of—

Premises other than Dwelling houses	Nil
-------------------------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

Number of Licences granted for the erection of—

New Dwellings for Sale or Owner Occupation	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Value	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£8,506

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

1. MILK SUPPLY

(i) DAIRIES AND DISTRIBUTORS

The following table shows the number of distributors and dairy premises on the register at the end of the year.

Registered dairy premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Registered distributors—							
(a) Trading from premises within the district	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
(b) Trading from premises outside the district	...	...	...	...	...	...	3

(ii) SPECIALLY DESIGNATED MILKS

The following table shows the licences issued and in force during the year under the Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949 and the Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949.

<i>"Accredited"</i>							
Dealers	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
<i>"Tuberculin Tested" *</i>							
Dealers	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Supplementary Dealers	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
<i>"Pasteurised" *</i>							
Dealers	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Supplementary Dealers	...	...	...	...	...	...	1

* Four distributors dealt in Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised) Milk.

Frequent samples of designated milks are taken by the County Sanitary Officer who furnishes copies of the laboratory reports: these indicated that the supplies were entirely satisfactory during the year under review.

2. MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

The slaughtering of food animals in this area was discontinued on the 15th of January, 1940, under the Livestock (Restriction on Slaughtering) Order, 1940.

Two Slaughter Houses are licensed in this area but have only been used during the period under review for the slaughter of pigs belonging to "self suppliers" from areas outside the radius specified, for a Government Slaughter House.

Voluntary surrender of the undermentioned foodstuffs found to be unfit for human consumption has been made:—

Imported and Home Killed Meat	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	30 $\frac{1}{4}$ lbs.
Sausages	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1 lb.
Canned Meats	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	25 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs.
„ Fish	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs.
„ Fruit	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	74 lbs.
„ Vegetables	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	59 lbs.
„ Milk	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7 lbs.
Bottled Fruit	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	17 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs.
Bread	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,929 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.
Chocolates	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4 lbs.
Beverages	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	$\frac{1}{4}$ lb.
Eggs	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	205

3. ICE CREAM

Sixteen premises are registered for the sale of ice cream and four for its manufacture in the District. During the year, however, only at one premises was ice cream actually manufactured, and in this case the complete cold mix process was operated. Frequent visits have been made to the premises and the requirements of the Heat Treatment Regulations have been fully explained and found to be observed.

Apart from those who manufacture their own ice cream, the dealers in the District obtain their supplies of the pre-packed commodity from the large reputable wholesalers.

4. CLEAN FOOD BYELAWS

Byelaws relating to the handling, wrapping, and delivery of food and sale of food in the open air, based on the Model issued by the Ministry of Food, were made by the Council under Section 15 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938 and came into operation on the 15th August 1950.

Inspections were made of all licensed premises, refreshment houses and food-preparing rooms in the area. In 18 instances it was found necessary to draw the attention of the occupier to improvements required, mainly comprising the provision of hot water facilities, proper storage for food and general cleansing. At the end of the year the majority of these improvements had been carried out and arrangements were in hand for the remainder.

It was not found necessary to take any formal action under the Byelaws.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

1. ISOLATION HOSPITALS

Cases of infectious disease are sent either to the Steppingley or to the Spittlesea Isolation Hospital.

The present policy of the North West Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board, which is now the authority for the admission to hospital of patients suffering from infectious disease, is that scarlet fever and measles should be admitted only where it is considered advisable due to the seriousness of the illness, or to an unsatisfactory home environment.

Measles

Thirteen cases were notified compared with ninety-five in 1950. Eleven of these occurred in the second quarter of the year, and ten occurred in children under five.

Pneumonia

Only two cases of this infection were notified, and both were nursed at home.

Scarlet Fever

Only five cases were notified compared with twenty-three in the previous year.

Whooping Cough

Sixty-seven cases occurred as compared with thirty-four in 1950. This infection continued over from the previous year and the majority of cases occurred in the first quarter of the year. Two-thirds of the cases notified were in the 0-5 year age group, and one-third in the 5-10 year age group. No deaths were reported.

Jaundice

Eight cases of jaundice were notified, six of these occurring in May.

Poliomyelitis

No cases of this infection were notified during the year.

Cerebro-spinal-meningitis

One case occurred in January—the person affected being a young recruit at Kempston Barracks.

Paratyphoid B. Fever

One carrier of this infection was detected as a result of investigations following the ascertainment that a child was excreting the organism.

2. NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS)

	Measles	Diphtheria	Jaundice	Pneumonia	Scarlet Fever	Puerperal Pyrexia	Whooping Cough	Cerebro Spinal Meningitis	Paratyphoid "B"
Total cases notified	13	—	8	2	5	—	67	1	2
Cases admitted to Hospital	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	1	2
Total Deaths	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cases under 1 year	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	—
Deaths „	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cases from 1-2 years	1	—	—	—	—	—	5	—	—
Deaths „	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cases from 2-3 years	4	—	—	—	1	—	12	—	—
Deaths „	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cases from 3-4 years	3	—	—	—	1	—	17	—	1
Deaths „	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cases from 4-5 years	3	—	—	—	—	—	7	—	—
Deaths „	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cases from 5-10 years	1	—	2	—	3	—	22	—	—
Deaths „	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cases from 10-15 years	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
Deaths „	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cases from 15-20 years	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Deaths „	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cases from 20-35 years	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	1	—
Deaths „	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cases from 35-45 years	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	1
Deaths „	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cases from 45-65 years	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Deaths „	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cases 65 years and over	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Deaths „	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

3. TUBERCULOSIS

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY

Age Period				New Cases				Deaths			
				Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
				M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 year to 5 years	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5 years to 10 years	...	...	...	—	1*	—	2	—	—	—	—
10 " 15 "	...	...	...	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
15 " 20 "	...	...	...	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
20 " 25 "	...	...	...	1+1*	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25 " 35 "	...	...	...	1	1*	—	—	—	—	—	—
35 " 45 "	...	...	...	1	—	1	—	1	—	—	—
45 " 55 "	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55 " 65 "	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and over	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
				3+1*	1+2*	2	2	1	—	—	—

*Transferred from another district.

No necessity arose for any action to be taken under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations 1925 (relating to persons in the Milk Trade) or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936 (relating to compulsory removal to Hospital).

4. ARTIFICIAL IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA

With the coming into force of the National Health Service Act, 1946, the County Council assumed responsibility for the functioning of a scheme under which facilities are available for children of all ages to obtain this important preventive treatment free of charge, either from the family doctor at his surgery, or from a medical officer at any of the Welfare Centres or schools within the County.

The following figures are presented through information supplied by Dr. G. K. Bowes, the Northern Divisional Medical Officer.

Number of children at 31st December, 1951, who had completed a course of immunisation at any time before that date (i.e., at any time since 1st January, 1935).

Age at 31.12.51								Estimated mid-year child population, 1951		
Under 1	1	2	3	4	5-9	10-14	Total Under 15	Under 5	5-14	Total Under 15
14	67	96	92	118	625	560	1,572	722	1,186	1,908

These figures indicate that 53.6 per cent of the child population under 5 years of age has been immunised against diphtheria as compared with 53.7 per cent at the end of 1950. 99.9 per cent of the child population of 5-14 years has been immunised against diphtheria as compared with 96.2 per cent at the end of the previous year; while 82.4 per cent of the children under 15 years of age have been protected against diphtheria by immunisation.

5. CLEANSING OF VERMINOUS PERSONS

SCABIES

By arrangement with the Borough of Bedford, infected persons are treated at the Borough Treatment Centre, Commercial Road, Bedford, at 10s. per treatment.

Where possible, arrangements are made for the other members of the household to attend for treatment as contacts at the same time as the infected person or persons.

During the year under review no treatments were given.

6. PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS

No action was necessary to be taken under Section 176 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

7. TRACING OF TYPHOID CARRIERS

Early in the summer a sample of sewage taken from the Kempston sewage works was found on culture to yield paratyphoid organisms. It was decided to try and find the source of entry of these organisms into the sewage by taking samples first from the main sewers, then from branch sewers, then from main drains and finally from smaller house drains, until the origin had been pin-pointed.

This is a comparatively recent but very important method of ascertaining the origin of an outbreak of enteric disease. The routine method usually involves the ascertainment of an infected supply of food or water, and the determination of the manner in which it was infected by a person carrying or suffering from the infection. Both methods can be used together, and the one provides a useful adjunct to the other.

In this instance there was, of course, no outbreak of the disease, but, with the co-operation and help of Dr. Walker at the Public Health Laboratory, the investigation was carried out. Gauze swabs were suspended at various branch points in the sewage system and, by taking cultures from these swabs, the infection was eventually traced back to two houses situated near each other. On interviewing the inmates of these houses, it was found that no one was employed in the handling or preparation of food for consumption by the public, and only limited preventive action was necessary.

The swabs at all stages were left suspended in the sewers or drains for four to five days. The whole process of tracing the infection from the sewage to the individual households—at times an exacting task—covered a period of ten weeks.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

The following table shows the work undertaken during the year.

	No. of properties inspected	No. of properties found to be infested	No. of Notices served under Sec. 4	No. of treatments carried out	
				By Council's Operator	Voluntarily by occupiers
Local Authority's Property	8	1	—	6	—
Dwelling Houses ...	423	36	—	33	3
Business Premises ...	39	13	—	10	3
Agricultural Property ...	6	2	—	1	1
TOTAL ...	476	52	—	50	7

In addition test baiting of the Council's sewerage system was carried out with negative results.

All complaints of rodent infestation are promptly investigated by the Council's Operator, who devoted a considerable amount of time in continuing the routine survey of the district. It was found that infestations at dwelling-house properties were mainly associated with the keeping of poultry or animals.

Great importance is given to providing a prompt and efficient service which, though far from self-supporting from the financial aspect, is felt to be fully justified in preventing damage to properties and foodstuffs, and in the prevention of the spread of disease.

FACTORIES

PRESCRIBED PARTICULARS ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

PART I OF THE ACT

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspections (3)	Written notices (4)	Occupiers prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ...	5	14	1	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ...	47	23	5	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises) ...	5	5	—	—
Totals ...	57	42	6	—

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

(If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they should be reckoned as two, three or more "cases")

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1) ...	2	2	—	1	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)—					
(a) Insufficient	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective ...	3	3	—	1	—
(c) Not separate for sexes ...	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	1	—	—	—	—
Totals	6	5	—	2	—

PART VIII OF THE ACT

3. OUTWORK

(Sections 110 and 111)

Nature of Work	Section 110			Section 111		
	No. of out-workers in August list required by Sect. 110(1) (c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecutions
Wearing apparel— Making, etc. ...	4	—	—	—	—	—

